

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2002

The Honorable Jane Swift
Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Swift:

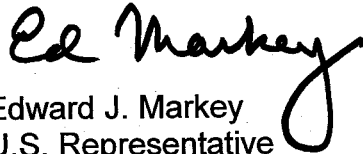
We are writing to urge that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts establish on an expedited basis an abducted-child AMBER alert system. The AMBER plan -- "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response" -- is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. Massachusetts is presently not equipped for this type of response. This needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

The immense value and effectiveness of the AMBER system were most recently demonstrated in solving the abduction case in California where two teenage girls were successfully rescued from their kidnapper. The names of the victims and a description of the car they were in were sent out to law enforcement agencies and broadcast media statewide. The electronic signs along California freeways flashed information to alert travelers of the description. The AMBER plan is most effective because it allows everyone in a community to get personally involved in recovering a local family's missing child.

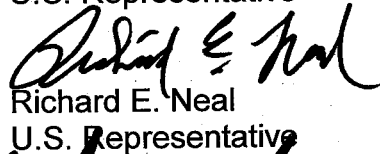
The AMBER system is built on an emergency broadcast platform used most frequently to warn of on-coming hurricanes or tornadoes. There are presently forty-three AMBER plans established nationwide. Most are local, but fourteen are statewide plans. We urge you to take the necessary steps to make Massachusetts the fifteenth statewide plan so that we are fully prepared to act aggressively and successfully should a stranger abduct a child in our state.

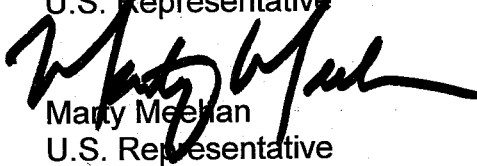
We look forward to working with you to continue to protect our children and urge you to do everything possible to expedite the establishment of a Massachusetts AMBER plan.

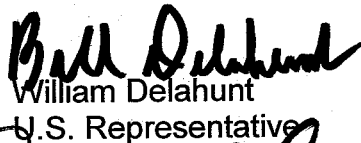
Sincerely,

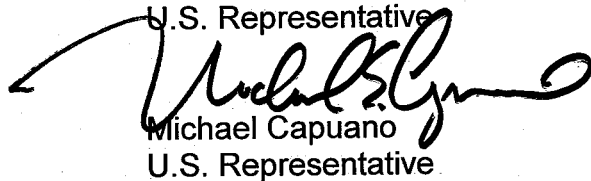

Edward J. Markey
U.S. Representative

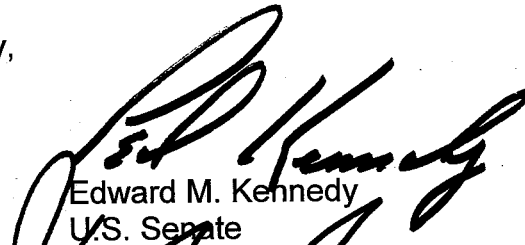

Barney Frank
U.S. Representative

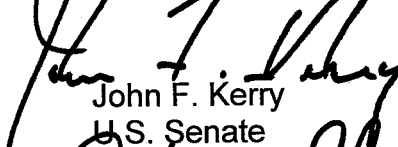

Richard E. Neal
U.S. Representative


Marty Meehan
U.S. Representative


William Delahunt
U.S. Representative

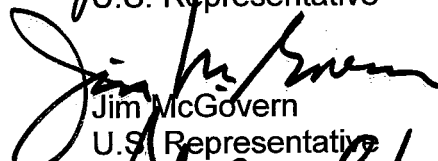

Michael Capuano
U.S. Representative

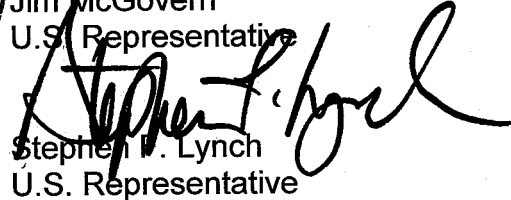

Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senate


John F. Kerry
U.S. Senate


John Olver
U.S. Representative


John Tierney
U.S. Representative


Jim McGovern
U.S. Representative


Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative

cc: Secretary James Jajuga
Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
1 Ashburton Place Room 2133
Boston, MA 02108

EJM/dhm